N. O. STATES-ITEM 19 Aug 71

11 Charged In Death Of Officer

JACKSON, Miss. (AP) — Eleven members of a black separatist organization were charged with the murder of a Jackson police detective who died today 21 hours after a shootout at the Republic of New Africa headquarters.

Dist. Atty. Jack Travis said the RNA members, including President Imari Obadele, will face a preliminary hearing tomorrow afternoon on the charge stemming from the death of Detective Lt. William L. Skinner, shot in the head during the gunbattle.

Travis said he would ask for a special grand jury in September to consider the case and would ask for an early trial.

SKINNER, the 36-year-old father of three children and top intelligence officer on the Jackson police force, and two other officers were wounded yesterday in the 20-minute gunbattle.

Those charged included seven persons who fled from the headquarters after the gunfire and tear gas fusillade and four others who were arrested a short time later at another house.

None of the blacks was injured.

The shooting incident came as police and FBI agents searched for Jerry R. Steiner, 20, of Detroit, wanted in Michigan on a murder charge, and three men wanted on lesser charges.

FBI officials said they had information that Steiner had been staying at the headquarters. Steiner was reported still at large today.

A CITY SPOKESMAN said 15 FBI agents and 14 policemen went to the white-frame home which serves as RNA headquarters.

Elmer Linburg, assistant special FBI agent in Jackson, said an appeal by officers that occupants of the building come out drew no response.

He said tear gas was then fired into the house. Gunfire then came from the structure, striking Skinner, FBI agent William Stringer and patrolman Billy Crowell, officers said.

STRINGER, struck in the leg, was in good condition. Crowell, who suffered a shoulder wound, was recovering, but authorities said he may lose an arm.

Leaders of the RNA—founded in Detroit with the goal of setting up an independent black nation in the South—had consecrated a 20-acre section of land near Jackson as the capital, El Malik.

Lofton Mason, a black farmer who owns the property but declined to go through with plans to sell it, initiated a court injunction last spring forbidding the RNA to set foot on the land.